

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 87-92 are in this case. Claims 87-92 have been rejected. Claim 87 has now been amended.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections – Hogan et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 87-92 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hogan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,451,503).

Following the telephone interview conducted with the Examiner on May 13, 2003, it was agreed upon that the present invention is patentable over the teachings of Hogan et al. The Examiner suggested that additional language should be added to claim 87 in order to further clarify the patentable feature of the present invention.

In order to expedite prosecution in this case, Applicant has agreed to enter an amendment which, in Applicant's opinion, does not further limit claim 87 but rather simply further clarifies the distinctive feature of the present invention as claimed. The Examiner approved during the Interview that claim 87 as now amended is novel and non-obvious and hence patentable over Hogan et al.

Support for the added claim language can be found throughout the instant application, see for example, page 43 lines 3-5 and page 45 lines 4-9. The Examiner approved during the Interview that indeed support for the amendment made in claim 87 is found in the above-identified locations in the specification.

It will be appreciated that since the text added to claim 87 does not in any way alter the subject matter of the claimed invention nor does it add any limitations to the claim, it is Applicant's strong opinion that no further searches

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by the Examiner are necessary in this case.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that claims 87-92 are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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